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SOURCE Interreport-Ost.

HIGHER PARTY TRAINING IN RUMANIA

[Comment: The following information on Rumanian party cadre schools was taken from the Vienna semiweekly periodical Inter-report-Ost of 14 February 1953.]

At the beginning of 1952, Iosif Chisinevski, Secretary of the Rumanian Workers' Party, spoke before the party plenum on the subject of the two highest party cadre schools in Rumania. These are the Stefan Gheorghiu School, which trains future officials for high party offices, and the A. A. Zhdanov School, which is the first Agitprop and press officials school. This was the first discussion of these schools, for up to the present these elite institutes were always considered as purely internal party matters and were held in secrecy.

Shortly after this discussion, the reason for the open mention of these schools became evident. Thorough transformations were taking place in the discipline and curriculum of the schools, which affected not only the high party schools themselves, but the training of all party officials as well. The following changes took place during January 1953.

Recruiting for the schools formerly depended on the economic, political, and national importance of the minority group from which the recruit originated. That is, only Rumanians and members of important national minorities living in ethnic settlements were permitted to prepare for the highest party positions. From now on, only members of a labor union, or working peasants whose parents belong to the same class, will be admitted to these schools. An exception to this rule is virtually impossible since all applications from other social strata must be approved personally by Iosif Chisinevski.

These new rules, which have been in effect since January 1953, indicate that not only Jews but also gypsies are being excluded. In previous classes, the percentage of gypsies was high. They proved to be dilligent, intelligent, and free from their customary nomadic tendencies.

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The normal course of a cadre candidate in the Stefan Gheorghiu School is 3 years. Half a year is spent in a friendly socialist state; 6-12 months are devoted to actual practice, where the student must show special ability at inducing national minorities to join the labor force. This indicates the great attention which is given to minorities in Rumania.

In both institutions, students must submit dissertations on political and propaganda themes before completing their training. These theses are then attached to the Curriculum Vitae and to the letters of evaluation issued by the faculty to each student. These papers constitute the file which is to accompany the party official throughout his career, and which can also bring about the end of his career at some future date.

Formerly, both schools accepted theses on the Marxist concept of economics and science. However, since the autumn of 1952, only theses on Stalin's works are acceptable as dissertation material. Even internal discipline has become stricter. For example, written excuses must be furnished for absence from meals, and the monthly report on the activity and behavior of each individual is discussed in public.

At the same time, the course of study has become more difficult. As of May 1953, the publishers of Scanteia are to set up a journalistic training course for the two schools. That is, the party editors are to become instructors in party schools. The influence of the graduates of these schools is expected to spread to trade literature. Already the historical and philosophical periodical Studii is under the editorship of men who are graduates of these two schools, but who have no specialized knowledge of history and philosophy. Eventually, graduates of party schools will be in a position to reach decisions from the party viewpoint, even in technical fields. Studies at these two schools also prepare shock troops for ideological warfare. For example, in November and December of 1952, graduates of the A. A. Zhdanov School were sent to various party headquarters, union secretariat and government offices to liquidate rightist deviationism.

Former Agitprop officials who succeeded in leaving Rumania estimate that approximately 150 students are graduated each year from these two party schools.

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